

R E M A R K S

The Examiner has acknowledged that Claims 1-16, 28 and 30-32 are allowed.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 26-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Pursuant to 37 CFR Section 1.111(b), Applicant requests that the Examiner's objection to Claims 26-27 be held in abeyance. If the Examiner should be persuaded by this response to allow independent base Claim 17 from which the objected-to claims depends, the basis for the objection will be removed.

Claims 17, 25 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,757,129, which issued to Schafnitzel.

The Examiner is of the opinion that Schafnitzel discloses a mercury carrier for a fluorescent lamp, where the carrier comprises a body y of metal material not reactive with mercury, a coating 8 (FIG. 2) of a metal which amalgams with mercury over a selected surface area of the body, mercury disposed on the metal coating and retained thereby in an amount up to that permitted by the selected mass of the metal coating, where the body is adapted for retention in the lamp after sealing of the lamp at completion of manufacture, and for introducing the permitted amount of mercury into the lamp. The Examiner states that the limitation of the body being for placement in a fluorescent lamp during manufacture of the lamp is not afforded patentable weight as it is recited solely in the preamble.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Schafnitzel patent cited by the Examiner as anticipating the instant invention, does not contain all of the material elements recited in Applicant's claims. Schafnitzel teaches a low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp, which is equipped with Hg or amalgam, has a pumping tube opening (4) with constricted cross-section or lumen. A solid body in the pumping tube (3) prevents the mercury from emerging into the discharge space. At the same time, the particular shape of the constriction and of the solid body, respectively,

makes it possible for Hg vapor to diffuse through-passages between the pumping tube and the solid body into discharge vessel.

Applicant respectfully submits that Schafnitzel fails to disclose a coating of a metal which amalgams with mercury over a selected surface area of a body of metal. Unlike Applicant's defined coating, Schafnitzel teaches at column 4, lines 64-66, a liquid or solid amalgam (or liquid mercury) 8. Moreover, Schafnitzel fails to disclose mercury disposed on the metal coating and retained thereby in an amount up to that permitted by the selected surface area of the metal coating as recited in independent Claims 17 and 29. Claim 25 is dependent on independent Claim 17 and thus depend on subject matter deemed patentable.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the rejection is deemed improper since Schafnitzel does not satisfy the essential requirement for a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,972,118, which issued to Yorifuji et al.

The Examiner is of the opinion that Yorifuji discloses a mercury carrier for a fluorescent lamp, where the carrier 31 (FIG. 7) comprises a body of metal material not reactive with mercury, a coating of a metal which amalgams with mercury over a selected surface area of the body, mercury disposed on the metal coating and retained thereby in an amount up to that permitted by the selected mass of the metal coating, where the body is adapted for retention in the lamp after sealing of the lamp at completion of manufacture, and for introducing the permitted amount of mercury into the lamp. The Examiner is further of the opinion that spherical body is coated with the indium and mercury during operation of the lamp. The Examiner states that the limitation of the body being for placement in a fluorescent lamp during manufacture of the lamp is not afforded patentable weight as it is recited solely in the preamble.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Yorifuji patent cited by the Examiner as anticipating the instant invention, does not contain all of the material elements recited in Applicant's claims. Yorifuji teaches an amalgam having a base metal including bismuth in an amount selected from the range between about 45 wt % and

65 wt %, and lead in an amount selected from the range between about 35 wt % and 55 wt %. The amalgam also includes mercury the amount of which is selected from the range between about 1 wt % and 12 wt % of the total amount of the amalgam. The amalgam is sealed in a low mercury vapor pressure discharge lamp which operates at a medium bulb surface temperature to achieve a stable mercury vapor pressure over an extended amalgam temperature range.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yorifuji fails to disclose a coating of a metal which amalgams with mercury over a selected surface area of a body of metal. Unlike Applicant's defined coating, Yorifuji teaches at column 5, lines 21-37, an auxiliary amalgam 31 fixed to one of the lead wires 23. Amalgam 31 is plate shaped molybdenum or stainless steel which is coated with indium. Clearly, Yorifuji fails to disclose mercury disposed on a metal coating and retained thereby in an amount up to that permitted by the selected surface area of the metal coating as recited in independent Claim 17. Claims 18-20 are dependent on independent Claim 17 and thus depend on subject matter deemed patentable. In view of the above, Applicant submits that the rejection is deemed improper since Yorifuji does not satisfy the essential requirement for a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

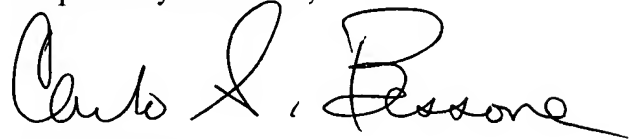
Claims 18, 19 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schafnitzel in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,090,050, which issued to Siiberg. Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yorifuji et al.

Applicant's Claims 18, 19, and 21-24 are dependent on independent Claim 17 and therefore include all recitations thereof. Moreover, Applicant's dependent claims include additional limitations that, when combined with the recitations in Claim 17, render these claims further distinct and non-obvious over the cited references. Therefore, Claims 18, 19, and 21-24 are likewise deemed allowable.

The Application with Claims 1-32 is deemed in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully urged. Should the Examiner believe that minor differences exist which, if overcome, would pass the Application to allowance and that said

differences can be discussed in a phone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlo S. Bessone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carlo" and last name "Bessone" clearly distinguishable.

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